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SOURCE Borba.

FARMERS SLOW IN SEED-EXCHANGE PROGRAM;
COTTON PLANTING EXCEEDS PLAN

TOO FEW FARMERS OBTAIN SELECTED SEED -- Borba, No 83, 7 Apr 49

This year's harvest depends in large measure on the planting of selected, preselected, and treated seed, which is supplied by the government to increase yields of various crops. However, the exchange of ordinary for selected seed has been progressing very slowly. By 1 April, when the planting season should have been well under way, only about 49.4 percent of the selected seed to be distributed in Yugoslavia had been distributed to farmers (36.1 percent in Serbia, 30 percent in Croatia, 27 percent in Bosnia and Herzegovina, 63 percent in Macedonia, and 67 percent in Slovenia), although practically all of it had been delivered to the srez authorities.

Many farmers do not understand the terms on which the exchange of seed is made or how to use it. Selected seed is loaned to new farm workers' cooperatives and cooperative farms, to farm enterprises, and to institutions which actually have no seed of their own. All other farmers, cooperative and private, can obtain selected seed in exchange for commercial-grade seed--for example, 100 kilograms of selected spring wheat seed for 100 kilograms of rye or 110 kilograms of barley or 120 kilograms of corn, according to what they have.

Some farmers, taking advantage of the ignorance of some local authorities, try to obtain selected seed on loan although they have seed of their own. Special efforts must be made to curb these speculators.

FIRST RICE PLANTING IN THE VOJVODINA -- Borba, No 79, 3 Apr 49

Rice will be planted in the Vojvodina this year for the first time. About 1,000 jutro of the more than 120,000 hectares under swamps or salt marshes in the province will be planted in rice this year. Growing rice will not only utilize hitherto useless land, but by washing out the salt will make it fit for growing other crops.

Three to ten thousand kilograms of rice will be raised per hectare, depending on the conditions and the variety of rice. The rice fields will also be utilized for raising fish.

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A complete water system is being built at the rice fields. Low banks and canals and pumping stations will be built. Work has already been started on cutting the canals, but only 10 percent of the required manpower has been obtained. However, about 20 percent of the canals have been cut, in spite of bad weather, because of the use of rotary cutters and other mechanical devices.

Drying plants and storehouses for rice will be built this year in the Vojvodina.

The rice planting is to begin at the end of April. The seed has been obtained, and the fields plowed by tractor during the winter.

MACEDONIAN COTTON PLANTING TO BEAT PLAN -- Borba, No 83, 7 Apr 49

The area to be planted in cotton in Macedonia this year will be considerably larger than the area specified for 1951 in the Five-Year Plan.

The plan for contracts for planting cotton in Macedonia has been fulfilled 101.5 percent.

About 90 percent of the cotton will be planted by machine. Seven hundred two-row planters have been made at the "Tito" Metal Products Factory at Skoplje, and 200 three-row planters have been received from Osijek. Another hundred two-row planters from the "Sumadija" Factory in Belgrade will arrive any day, and 1,800 cultivators for the first and second hoeing of the cotton have been ordered.

A number of 15-day courses in operating machines, attended by 1,118 students, have been organized in Macedonia.

The plan calls for the operation of machinery on three shifts during the planting season.

Over 3½ million kilograms of chemical fertilizer have already been spread, and about 1½ million kilograms more will be used by planting time.

About 30 percent of the total area to be planted in cotton will be planted by farm workers' and agricultural cooperatives. The sowing plan is expected to be substantially exceeded.

MUCH MORE COTTON PLANTED IN MONTENEGRO -- Borba, No 81, 5 Apr 49

In Montenegro 230 percent more land than last year will be planted in industrial crops, and 2½ times more land will be planted in cotton. Forty-three percent of the total area allocated to cotton in all Montenegro will be planted in Bar Srez alone, where conditions for growing cotton are particularly favorable. The republic plan for signing contracts for planting cotton was fulfilled 106 percent. In Hercegovi Srez the contract plan was exceeded by 40 percent.

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